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A Selected Bibliography on Mercury in the Environment, with Subject Listing

Susan Robinson and W.B. Scott





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# Mercury Bibliography

# Preface

This bibliography is a by-product of a study of mercury levels in fresh-water fishes of Ontario, currently being conducted at the Royal Ontario Museum. The study was initially financed by an Ontario Department of University Affairs grant in aid of research (D.U.A. Grant No. 2844-4-287) to Dr. J. A. Mandarino, Curator of Mineralogy, Dr. W. B. Scott, Curator of Ichthyology and Herpetology and Dr. C. McGowan, Assistant Curator of Vertebrate Palaeontology. It was obtained to investigate mercury and other elemental concentrations in various species of fishes in Ontario and to determine if there were any variations in concentrations with respect to time. Additional support was provided by a grant from the Canadian National Sportsmen's Show.

In the course of the study several different types of analyses were attempted: e.g. total mercury vs. organic mercury levels in a given sample; separation and identification of organic mercury compounds. Thus, a search was made into the literature on analytical methods for mercury. It was also of interest, during this study, to take account of mercury levels which had been measured in other organisms.

Similarly, we were interested in the toxic effects of mercury experimentally introduced to the organisms, as well as the effects of levels in the environment.

The references cited in several papers, as well as references listed in bibliographies of texts published on "mercury in the environment", were compiled as a source of information.

It is hoped this bibliography will serve as a guide to teachers, students, and beginning researchers, concerned with environmental problems in general, and who are interested in mercury from a specific point of view, such as the levels of mercury measured in humans. These people may not be familiar with the authors of the many papers which have been published recently on environmental mercury. They also probably do not have access to the expensive texts

which list these papers by author. This bibliography has categorized the various papers covering the time interval of the mid 1960's to May 1973. A few earlier papers from the 1930's through to the 1950's cover the historical background of the medical and pharmacological properties of mercury compounds.

The references listed by author in the main bibliography (pp. 8-53) can be classified by subject matter in the following way:

1. Analytical methods

Papers under this heading describe methods of determining mercury levels in biological and geological materials.

- (a) Atomic absorption: This is the method most commonly employed to measure mercury levels; includes both flame and flameless atomic absorption methods.
- (b) Neutron activation analysis.
- (c) Chromatography:
  This method has been employed by Swedish and
  Japanese researchers to separate and identify
  organic mercury compounds in fishes.
- (d) Other methods: Colorimetry, photometry, emission spectroscopy, mass spectrograph.
- Properties of mercury compounds
  Papers under this heading are in two categories:
  - (a) General chemical and physical properties (not necessarily toxic properties).
  - (b) Toxic properties.
- 3. Biological and geochemical transformations
  - (a) Biological:
    Transformations such as bacterial conversions of inorganic to organic mercury compounds, food chain concentrations of mercury compounds, and metabolism of inorganic and organic mercury compounds by various organisms (including the pharmacology of experimentally induced mercury concentrations in the organs of various animals).
    - (b) Geochemical: Transformations such as equilibrium of mercury compounds established in water and conversions of mercury compounds in sediments.
- 4. Levels of mercury measured in the following
  - (a) Fishes
  - (b) Humans (including case histories of mercury

poisoning)

- (c) Organisms other than fishes and humans
- (d) Water
- (e) Air
- (f) Sediments
- (g) Foods (including plants)
- 5. Symposia conferences...

and other publications related to mercury and the environment.

Numbers used are those of individual publications listed by author in the bibliography.

### 1. Analytical methods:

- (a) Atomic absorption: 36, 54, 80, 91, 94, 136, 161, 170, 205, 241, 243, 244, 262, 264, 270, 273, 294, 296, 327, 342, 415
- (b) Neutron activation analysis: 54, 81, 82, 83, 136, 168, 210, 273, 325, 334, 441
- (c) Chromatography:
  42, 48, 54, 125, 136, 199, 273, 322, 347, 348, 376,
  443, 445
- (d) Other methods: colorimetry, photometry, emission spectroscopy, mass spectrograph: 34, 39, 54, 136, 141, 199, 231, 251, 273, 323, 326, 339, 410, 427, 439

### 2. Properties of mercury compounds:

- (a) General, chemical and physical properties: 1, 35, 49, 50, 89, 97, 119, 120, 125, 136, 211, 242, 305, 319, 425
- (b) Toxic properties: 1, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, 20, 21, 23, 28, 30, 31, 32, 35, 37, 46, 49, 52, 53, 54, 57, 59, 69, 70, 74, 76, 77, 78, 98, 99, 102, 103, 104, 109, 112, 114, 116, 118, 119, 120, 122, 124, 126, 127, 128, 132, 136, 137, 143, 144, 146, 150, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 162, 164, 165, 166, 171, 173, 175, 176, 179, 180, 181, 182, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 192, 194, 206, 207, 208, 209, 212, 215, 220, 221, 223, 224, 225, 226, 232, 235, 237, 238, 248, 249, 250, 252, 253, 254, 258, 259, 263, 265, 266, 267, 271, 272, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 289, 291, 297, 306, 307, 308, 310, 311, 312, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 324, 335, 338, 344, 345, 346, 349, 350, 357, 360, 365, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 377, 378, 379, 381, 390, 391, 392, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 404, 405, 411, 414, 417, 418, 419, 421, 423, 426, 432, 433, 434, 435, 447, 448, 455

## 3. Biological and geochemical transformations:

(a) Biological 2, 3, 6, 9, 10, 16, 37, 41, 43, 44, 49, 52, 54, 55, 56, 58, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 70, 71,

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395, 396, 401, 408, 409, 411, 412, 413, 414, 418,
419, 421, 424, 426, 427, 428, 432, 433, 436, 437,
453, 456, 457, 459
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- (b) Geochemical transformations: 5, 29, 50, 67, 92, 115, 136, 202, 203, 226, 234, 235, 273, 287, 300, 320, 430, 433
- 4. Levels of mercury measured on the following:
  - (a) Fishes:
    9, 10, 19, 21, 28, 30, 31, 32, 41, 43, 47, 54, 72, 73, 88, 114, 121, 131, 169, 173, 182, 197, 201, 208, 209, 214, 218, 226, 233, 235, 236, 253, 254, 257, 258, 265, 268, 302, 314, 315, 316, 321, 330, 331, 403, 416, 417, 433, 444, 450, 452, 454, 460
    - (b) Humans:
      2, 6, 8, 16, 23, 28, 52, 53, 54, 85, 103, 105, 114, 124, 130, 136, 151, 156, 164, 165, 175, 176, 184, 204, 206, 207, 212, 213, 214, 223, 224, 225, 226, 235, 239, 249, 250, 255, 258, 265, 273, 279, 314, 315, 316, 324, 335, 350, 368, 369, 371, 372, 373, 374, 381, 382, 383, 389, 390, 391, 392, 399, 401, 404, 405, 417, 432, 435, 440, 455
    - (c) Organisms other than fishes and humans:
      17, 32, 43, 51, 52, 68, 75, 76, 77, 78, 103, 121,
      122, 123, 145, 162, 174, 197, 201, 214, 218, 226,
      253, 258, 265, 273, 314, 315, 356, 379, 380, 402,
      420, 421, 422, 429, 433, 451
    - (d) Water:
      10, 13, 24, 26, 27, 29, 73, 79, 84, 86, 90, 108,
      119, 136, 149, 154, 155, 167, 169, 184, 186, 200,
      201, 203, 213, 217, 222, 226, 228, 245, 258, 273,
      292, 297, 299, 300, 303, 314, 315, 328, 400, 404,

- 406, 407, 417, 433, 438
- (e) Atmosphere:
  12, 13, 25, 26, 27, 40, 86, 108, 119, 129, 136,
  149, 155, 198, 200, 202, 203, 226, 234, 258, 273,
  297, 299, 301, 328, 433, 448, 449, 458
- (f) Sediments: 5, 13, 18, 32, 33, 38, 40, 45, 67, 110, 169, 196, 214, 226, 234, 292, 320, 332, 385, 386, 431, 433
- (g) Foods (including plants):
  13, 14, 15, 22, 73, 113, 138, 139, 190, 197, 246,
  273, 337, 338, 433, 442, 446
- 5. Special interest conferences Symposia and related publications dealing with mercury 11, 54, 69, 98, 101, 136, 167, 179, 225, 226, 228, 235, 248, 258, 265, 273, 328, 371, 433

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